



THOMPSON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

#300 - 465 Victoria Street
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Dear Chair Richmond,

As you are aware, Royal Inland Hospital will be receiving an upgraded cancer centre, with construction expected to begin this fall.

The new cancer centre will house three linear accelerators to provide radiation treatment for patients west of the Okanagan Valley. Undoubtedly, this will be a welcome development for residents of the Thompson, Nicola, and Cariboo regions, who will no longer need to travel to Kelowna for radiation therapy.

Unfortunately, the new cancer centre will not only lack a PET/CT scanner, but it will also not have the infrastructure to accommodate one in the future. Our Board finds this decision incredibly short-sighted for several reasons, including the following:

1. More people from the Thompson, Nicola, and Cariboo regions travel to Kelowna for PET/CT scans than for radiation therapy.
2. The next major capital project at Royal Inland Hospital is not expected for at least 13 years.
3. Every other new or upgraded cancer centre announced in B.C. over the past year — including those in Surrey (2), UBC, Nanaimo, and Burnaby — will have a PET/CT scanner.

The Thompson Regional Hospital District has been actively lobbying Interior Health and the provincial government to include space for a future PET/CT scanner in the new facility. Our efforts have included an in-person meeting in Victoria with the Honourable Minister Josie Osborne and the Honourable Minister Bowinn Ma.

We have since received responses from both Interior Health and the provincial government indicating that they do not intend to include this space in the current plans.

We would appreciate your Board's consideration in supporting our request to include space for a PET/CT scanner in the new cancer centre at Royal Inland Hospital. We believe this addition would have a significant and positive impact on cancer patients from the Cariboo region. For your reference, I have attached an editorial published last month highlighting the need for and benefits of a PET/CT scanner in Kamloops.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions.

Regards,



Mike O'Reilly
Chair
Thompson Regional Hospital District